

Application No. 09/878,707
Amendment dated June 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2006

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-33 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 20, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by article *Uses and consequences of electronic markets; an empirical investigation in the aircraft parts industry* to Choudhury (“Choudhury”).

Claims 1-19 and 33 are allowed

Claims 22, 23, 27, and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The indication, in the Office Action, that the Examiner has no objections to the drawings filed on November 14, 2005, is noted with appreciation.

Claim Amendments

Claims 22, 27 and 29 have been amended to place them in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 20-21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 have been cancelled. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 20, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 have been cancelled, mooting there rejections thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Choudhury.

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Claim objections

The Office Action states that claims 22, 27, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to place them in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. This amendment rewrites claims 22, 27, and 29 to place them in independent form as suggested. Claim 23 depends from claim 22. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the amendment overcomes the objections to claim claims 22, 23, 27, and 29.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

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Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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